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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Thirty-seventh session
Vienna, 13-22 April 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda *

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotations to the provisional agenda **

Item 1: Election of officers

Elections are held in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. ***

Beginning with its eleventh special session in 1990, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the slate of officers at the thirty-seventh session will be as follows: Chairman Asia and the Pacific; First Vice-Chairman: Eastern Europe; Second Vice-Chairman: Western Europe and others; Third Vice-Chairman: Latin America and the Caribbean; Rapporteur: Africa.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

The provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session was proposed by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session and approved by the Economic and Social Council by decision 1993/245 of 27 July 1993.

Following adoption of the agenda, the Commission normally establishes its timetable for the session. A provisional timetable will be issued as a conference room paper for consideration by the Commission.

A provisional list of documents for the session will be circulated as a conference room paper.

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* E/CN.7/1994/1
** This document has not been formally edited.
*** E/5975/Rev.1

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/CN.7/1994/1)

- Status: out in all languages.

Annotations to the provisional agenda (E/CN.7/1994/1/Add.1)

- Status: out in English; other languages in translation.

Item 3: General debate: Examination of the world situation with respect to drug abuse, including illicit demand, illicit trafficking and illicit supply:

(a) General statements;

(b) Substantive debate and conclusions.

In order to have a well-organized and properly focused general debate and to facilitate a substantive exchange of views during its sessions, the Commission decided at its thirty-fifth session (resolution 9 (XXXV), paragraph 1) that, starting with its thirty-sixth session, the "General Debate" would be structured in two sub-items: (a) "General statements", devoted to introductory statements of a general nature and (b) "Substantive debate and conclusions". "General statements" should, in principle, be limited to ten minutes. A list of speakers has been opened at the Secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

In order to further refine the procedure to be followed in the general debate, the Commission, at its thirty-sixth session, decided that informal consultations should take place between interested permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Vienna prior to its thirty-seventh session. It is expected that at least three such consultations will take place.

The first informal consultation concluded that it would be advantageous to combine items 3 and 4 and to hear the Executive Director's introductory statement for item 4 at the beginning of the combined item so as to be in a better position to give policy advice and directives under the item on general debate.

To assist its consideration of the world situation with respect to illicit demand, the Commission will have before it a report reflecting trends in drug abuse. The Commission's attention is also drawn to the relevant parts of the Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1993. (See also item 10 below.)

With respect to illicit drug traffic the Commission will have before it a document reflecting relevant parts of the reports of its subsidiary bodies. Chapter I of the document consists of matters brought to the attention of the Commission for possible action; chapter II consists of the reports on current trends in the illicit drug traffic. Since the Commission's last session, there will have been two regional HONLEA meetings and a session of the Subcommission. The reports on these meetings will be before the Commission in conference room papers in the language(s) of the respective subsidiary body. The first informal consultation, when examining the draft provisional timetable, recommended that the reports of subsidiary bodies should be first considered in the Committee of the Whole which would report to Plenary.

Statistics relating to seizures of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances will be available to the Commission in a background paper.

Regarding illicit supply, there is no specific document on this issue: relevant background data will be found in the 1993 report of the International Narcotics Control Board and in the report of the Executive Director of UNDCP on the activities of the Programme (see item 4).

Reports of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on drug abuse control activities outside the United Nations system will be issued as conference room papers.

Documentation

Report on Drug Abuse (E/CN.7/1994/4)

- Status: out in English; other languages in translation.

Report on illicit traffic (E/CN.7/1994/10)

- Status: out in English; other languages in translation.

Item 4: Activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

The Commission will have before it the report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNDCP during 1993, as well as a background paper containing details of UNDCP field activities.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the Programme (E/CN.7/1994/2)

- Status: submitted to editorial control

Item 5: Implementation of the international drug control treaties

(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances

(b) International Narcotics Control Board

(c) Other urgent action required under the international drug control conventions

(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances

Article 12, paragraph 13, of the 1988 Convention, requires INCB to report annually to the Commission on the implementation of that article. The first informal consultation recommended that the Committee of the Whole should consider the report of INCB on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention and report thereon to Plenary.

No action is currently called for under this sub-item.

Documentation

Report of INCB on article 12 (E/INCB/1993/4)

- Status: out in English; other languages in translation.

(b) International Narcotics Control Board

The annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1993 is submitted to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The Commission may make such comments on the report as it sees fit. In addition, article 8 of the 1961 Convention authorizes the Commission to call the attention of the Board to any matters that may be relevant to the functions of the Board.

Documentation

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1993 (E/INCB/1993/1)

- Status: out in all languages (under embargo until 28 February 1994).

(c) Other urgent action required under the international drug control conventions

In resolution 3 (XXXVI) the Commission decided to convene an expert group to examine the possible mandate, activities and funding of a working group on maritime cooperation against illicit drug trafficking.

The report of the group will be before the Commission for appropriate action. The first informal consultation recommended that the report should first be considered by the Committee of the Whole which would report to Plenary.

Documentation

Report of the expert group on maritime cooperation (E/CN.7/1994/3)

- Status: out in Chinese, English, French and Russian; Arabic and Spanish in translation.

Item 6: Monitoring of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action

When adopting the Global Programme of Action (GPA) at its seventeenth special session in February 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to it on the implementation of GPA. The task of monitoring that implementation was later entrusted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1991/38, which expanded the mandate of the Commission following the reorganization of the Secretariat which led to the establishment of UNDCP. The Commission began this monitoring function in 1992 and now has an agenda item on the subject at each session.

At its thirty-sixth session the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on implementation of GPA prepared for the General Assembly as requested in resolution 47/99. In the light of comments made at the Commission and additional data received from Governments, the final report was presented to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session (A/48/286). In resolution 48/12, adopted following the high-level plenary meetings at its forty-eighth session (see item 7 below), the Assembly asked the Commission to bear in mind the recommendations contained in that report. In addition, in Section III of resolution 48/112 adopted later at its forty-eighth session, the Assembly asked the Commission to examine ways and means to facilitate reporting by governments on the implementation of GPA.

For its consideration of this item, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of GPA by Governments and a note by the Secretariat on possible action by the Commission, including a simplified draft questionnaire to facilitate reporting by governments. The Commission may also wish to prioritize the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation (A/48/286)

- Status: out in all languages.

Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.7/1994/8)

- Status: out in English; other languages in translation.

Item 7: Review of the results of the high-level plenary meetings at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly to examine the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

At the high-level plenary meetings at its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/12 on measures to strengthen international cooperation in drug abuse control.

In paragraph 8 of the resolution, concerning the enhancement of coordination of drug control matters within the United Nations system, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council, at its coordination segment in 1994, to examine the status of such cooperation in order to recommend ways and means to improve it, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. The Commission may wish to recommend to the Council ways to enhance the status of international drug control cooperation within the United Nations system and will discuss the matter under item 8 of its agenda.

In paragraph 9 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission, with the support of UNDCP and in cooperation with INCB, to monitor and evaluate action taken to implement the international drug control instruments, with a view to identifying areas of satisfactory progress and weakness, and to recommend to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1995 appropriate adjustments of drug control activities whenever required. The Assembly also requested the Council to consider and make recommendations on specific drug control issues listed in paragraph 10 of the resolution.

For its consideration of this item, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on Assembly resolution 48/12.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.7/1994/6)

- Status: out in English; other languages in translation.

Item 8: Monitoring of the development and implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

In its resolution 47/100 the General Assembly called upon the United Nations agencies, particularly those associated with the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) to establish agency-specific implementing plans to incorporate fully into their programmes all the mandates and activities contained therein.

In that resolution the General Assembly also requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to update SWAP, under the direction of the Executive Director of UNDCP, for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The Assembly further requested ACC to review and update SWAP, as necessary, taking into account the need to simplify and streamline its presentation.

At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly formulated certain requests with respect to SWAP in paragraph 8 of resolution 48/12 and in Section IV of resolution 48/112. (With reference to resolution 48/12, see under item 7 above.)

In resolution 48/112, the Assembly requested the Commission to review the updated SWAP and transmit its comments thereon through the Council to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

For its consideration of this item, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the development and implementation of SWAP, including the agency-specific implementation plans, prepared for the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Commission may wish to provide its views on the progress so far achieved in updating SWAP, and make recommendations on ways and means to improve international cooperation in drug abuse control in the United Nations system.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (joint Council/Assembly document; symbol not yet available)

- Status: document being processed at United Nations Headquarters.

Item 9: Coordination of drug-related activities and cooperation between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat

At its thirty-sixth session, the Commission adopted resolution 10 (XXXVI) entitled "Cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other bodies". The Commission also decided to include the present item in its provisional agenda. In response to the Commission's request to UNDCP in that resolution to report on action taken, the Commission will have before it a report on joint activities of UNDCP/CPCJB as well as measures proposed by the Executive Director of UNDCP to improve coordination between the two bodies.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.7/1994/7)

- Status: out in English and French; other languages in translation.

Item 10: Examination of strategies and activities to reduce illicit demand for drugs

In the light of its discussions on drug abuse at its thirty-sixth session, the Commission decided to include a special item on the above subject in its agenda for the thirty-seventh session. The Council also emphasized the importance it attached to the question by approving a draft resolution, entitled "Demand reduction as part of balanced national strategic plans to combat drug abuse", which the Economic and Social Council subsequently adopted as resolution 1993/35.

In that resolution the Council drew attention to the importance of comprehensive strategic plans to combat drug abuse and to provide a focus for controlling the supply of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Council also requested the Programme to give priority to assisting countries in the development and implementation of those plans, which should take into account regional and local needs. The Programme was urged to facilitate access to and disseminate information received from governments regarding the development, implementation and evaluation of national strategies and programmes to control drug abuse.

To facilitate discussion of the item, the Commission will have before it a report of the Secretariat on national strategies and activities in the field of demand reduction.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat (E/CN.7/1994/5)

- Status: out in English; other languages in translation.

Item 11: Administrative and budgetary matters

At its thirty-fifth session, the Commission approved, in resolution 13 (XXXV), a temporary procedure for the preparation of the budget submissions of the Fund of UNDCP, agreed on the format of budget documentation and decided to review the budget format and methodology at its thirty-seventh session to consider any adjustments that might be required in the light of experience.

At its thirty-sixth session, the Commission approved, in resolution 13 (XXXVI), a new budget cycle for the Fund of UNDCP, which included a reconvened thirty-sixth session to consider the budget for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995. In addition, the Commission requested the Executive Director to report at its thirty-seventh session on the programme support cost arrangement of UNDCP and reaffirmed its decision to review the programme budget format and methodology at that session.

At the reconvened thirty-sixth session, the Executive Director submitted the initial programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and the second and final revision of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The submission followed a new, improved format and methodology based on the budget prototype already introduced during the first part of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission. Due to the close relationship between the issues involved, the Executive Director decided to submit together with the programme budget proposals, the report on the programme support cost arrangement initially requested by the Commission for its thirty-seventh session. As a result, the review of budget format and methodology as well as the programme support cost arrangement, originally scheduled for review during the thirty-seventh session, already took place during the reconvened thirty-sixth session.

The thirty-seventh session of the Commission will have before it a working paper with the unaudited financial statements for the Fund of UNDCP for the biennium 1992-1993 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/185 C (XVI). The unaudited financial statements should be issued by 31 March 1994. The audited financial statements will only be available after the close of the thirty-seventh session and will be distributed to States members of the Commission by mid-1994.

Item 12: Provisional agenda of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission and future work

Provisional agenda

Under this item of its agenda the Commission is invited to draw up the provisional agenda and list of documents for its thirty-eighth session, and to consider other organizational questions relating to its future work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.7/1994/9)

- Status: out in English; other languages in translation.

Item 13: Other matters

No documentation is currently foreseen under this item.

Item 14: Adoption of the report of the Commission at its thirty-seventh session

It is expected that the Commission will adopt the report of its thirty-seventh session on the afternoon of the last day of its session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

In its resolution 1991/39 of 21 June 1991, entitled "Functioning of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs", the Council decided, inter alia, that the Commission would "establish a Committee, the membership of which shall be open to all States members of the Commission to perform such functions as requested by the Commission in order to assist it in dealing with its agenda and to facilitate its work."

In connection with the thirty-seventh session of the Commission, it is suggested that the Committee of the Whole might be entrusted with preliminary examination of (i) matters arising from the reports of subsidiary bodies (item 3), (ii) the report on demand reduction activities and strategies (item 10), (iii) the report of INCB on the implementation of article 12 of the 1988 Convention (item 5 (a)), and the report of the expert group on maritime cooperation in connection with article 17 of the 1988 Convention (item 5(c)). In addition, the Commission has decided that draft resolutions should first be considered in the Committee of the Whole before being brought to Plenary.

The Committee of the Whole is scheduled to meet from Friday, 15 April, through Wednesday, 20 April, to consider the above matters.